

**TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
October 14, 2008**

**Meeting Place:** Grand Rapids Municipal Building, 2410 48<sup>th</sup> Street South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

**Present:** Chairman Don Bohn, Supervisors Arne Nystrom, Jeanne Fehrman, Bill Clendenning, and Edward Hellner; Treasurer Kristine Ginter, Clerk Judy McLellan, Building Inspector Lorelei Fuehrer, Fire Chief Scott Bernette and Police Chief Dave Lewandowski.

**Absent:**

**Excused:**

NOTE: ( ) indicates agenda item of when Board member joined the meeting.

*Notices of the meeting were legally posted at The Store in Kellner, the Grand Rapids Garage and the Grand Rapids Municipal Building, and published in the Daily Tribune.*

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Don Bohn.

1. **Approve minutes of September 23, 25 & October 2, 2008 Town Board Meetings.** Motion (Clendenning/Hellner) approve minutes as presented. Motion carried.
2. **Application of Doug Hanneman for a Certified Survey Map dividing a parcel.** Motion (Fehrman/Clendenning) to adopt resolution 2008-31 approving the Certified Survey Map for Doug Hanneman dividing parcel #07-1041 into lot 1 and outlot 1 with the understanding that outlot 1 be joined with parcel #07-1038, which is owned by Sophie Hanneman, creating one parcel to avoid a non-conforming parcel. Motion carried
3. **Application of Peter Shau, Alltel Wireless for a C.U.P. to co-locate an antenna at 2710 64<sup>th</sup> St. S.** Motion (Nystrom/Fehrman) to adopt resolution 2008-32 approving the C.U.P. to allow Alltel Wireless to co-locate an antenna at existing tower at 2710 64<sup>th</sup> St. S. with the condition they obtain an electrical permit as specified on the plans submitted. Motion carried
4. **Presentation from DNR Forestry personnel on fire prone nature of Town of Grand Rapids and their intent to focus educational campaign in the community.** Brian Luebke, WDNR Forest Ranger and Amy Luebke, WDNR Wildland-Urban Interface Specialist spoke to the board and public about an educational campaign that they wish to pursue in the Town of Grand Rapids pertaining to the fire prone nature of the town and ways to reduce the possibility of a wildfire damaging property. They will be working with the town employees to get information out to the public by way of articles in newsletters, websites, and possible meetings with members of the community.
5. **Jim Walsh to address board on need for funding for Public Access broadcasting.** Jim Walsh was not able to make the meeting and Supervisor Nystrom spoke on his behalf. Nystrom asked the board to consider a \$1000 donation to the Public Access Station to help defray costs of televising events. Will be address at a future meeting.
6. **Discussion on alleyway in Edgewood Subdivision.** Attorney Quinn had prepared a statement of his research on the various procedural methods in vacating an alleyway. This was given to the interested residents with the direction that the board will cooperate with any proceedings initiated by a private attorney in vacating the alleyway in discussion. The residents were directed that the cost of the attorney work would need to be addressed by them.
7. **Update from Building Inspector on property at Lot 7 Pointe Estates owned by Dave Ramsden.** Building Inspector Lorelei Fuehrer stated that the 60 days that were given to Dave Ramsden to repair the foundation at Lot 7 Pointe Estates and obtain the building permit were up as of October 13<sup>th</sup>. She stated that Centralia Development as inspected the foundation and certified that it was repaired and able to be build on. Lorelei stated that she had spoken to Mr. Ramsden and told him that the 60 days were up and that he needed to take out the building permit by October 13. Mr. Ramsden made no effort to take out the building permit. Motion (Clendenning/Nystrom) to follow the motion made at the August 12, 2008 meeting to issue a citation to Mr. Ramsden. Second by Nystrom made for the sake of discussion. Supervisor Hellner stated that he thought the original motion was to start condemnation procedures if Mr.

Ramsden did not comply in the 60 days allotted to him. Supervisor Clendenning withdrew his motion as did Supervisor Nystrom his second. Supervisor Fehrman stated that she has not seen any indication that Mr. Ramsden plans on cooperating with the board or following up on the safety concerns that have been addressed with him by the board members. She said she did not see any reason to extend the 60 day time limit for Mr. Ramsden. Motion (Clendenning/Fehrman) to start the condemnation procedures for the foundation at Lot 7 Pointe Estates based on the failure of Mr. Ramsden to obtain a building permit as was required by the board in the motion made on August 12, 2008. Motion carried

- 8. Approval/Denial of Building Inspector attending Wisconsin Commercial Building Schooling.** Motion (Nystrom/Fehrman) to deny the Building Inspector attending Wisconsin Commercial Building School. Motion carried.
- 9. Discussion of Airport Fixed Base Operator's contract.** Supervisor Nystrom referred to the copy of the Fixed Base Operator's contract with the Municipal Airport Commission for Alexander Field. The current contract paid him a % of the cost of fuel sold. Over the past years the sales of fuel have dropped off and the amount paid the Fixed Base Operator will not be covering expenses. Supervisor Nystrom just wanted the board to be aware of the upcoming discussions that will be taking place at the Airport Commission meeting.
- 10. Approval/Denial of Recycling and Garbage Contract with Veolia Environmental Services.** Supervisor Clendenning stated that the new 5 year contract would have no increase in the year 2009. The next 4 years would have a increase based on the Consumer Price Index with a 5% max cap. A fuel surcharge was added to the contract stating that a charge could be added should fuel cost increase above \$4.20 per gallon. No other changes were made to the contract. Motion (Clendenning/Hellner) approve the town entering into the contract with Veolia Environmental Services as presented. Motion carried.
- 11. Discussion of use of recycling containers in the Town of Grand Rapids.** Supervisor Clendenning stated that Veolia would like to see the residents of the town begin using containers for recycling items. Clendenning stated that the 18 gallon containers could be purchased from Veolia for approximately \$8.00. The Recycling & Garbage committee will explore the issue further and report back to the board. They are looking at possible grants or having local businesses sponsor and add on the containers to help with cost.
- 12. Discussion/Approval/Denial of the town taking out a loan to cover new squad car, municipal building repairs, new end loader and concrete approach work at Fire Station.** The board discussed the possibility of borrowing the money for various items. Motion (Hellner/Fehrman) to authorize the treasurer to borrow \$335,500 to purchase the items on the presented list. Second by Fehrman made for the sake of discussion. Board members stated that they were not to the point of authorizing the treasure to borrow the money. Supervisor Hellner withdrew his motion. Supervisor Fehrman withdrew her second. Supervisor Fehrman stated that this should be considered more at the upcoming budget meetings. Motion (Nystrom/Clendenning) to approve the treasurer to seek information on the interest rate and approximate payments for a loan for \$335, 500. Motion carried
- 13. Discussion/Approval/Denial of Chief Lewandowski ordering new squad car.** Chief Lewdowski stated that if the new squad car was ordered shortly it would take 100-120 day for delivery. The board members agreed that a new car would be in the budget either by tax levy or loan. Motion (Fehrman/Hellner) to authorize Chief Lewandowski to order a 2009 Dodge Charger for the cost of approximately \$24,600.
- 14. Presentation by Sergeant Wiltse on proposed use of Town's 40 acres of land as a police firing range.** Sergeant Wiltse had a slide presentation on the proposed use of the Town's 40 acres of land on 48<sup>th</sup> St. as a police firing range and possible public use as a firing range. He stated that all the Town of Grand Rapids Officers are willing to help get donations to build the needed items on the land and to supervise the public use on designated weekends at no cost to the town. A cost of \$3-5 per person could be charged to help cover the cost of targets and ammunition for the officers. Supervisor Clendenning asked if this should be brought before the Planning Commission for their approval or concerns. Concerns as to the safety of the proposal were addressed.
- 15. Discussion/Approval/Denial of use of Town's 40 acres as police firing range.** Motion (Fehrman/Nystrom) to table the item until a presentation can be made to the Planning Commission and more information can be gathered. Motion carried.
- 16. Discussion on proposed amendment to Ordinance 48-Regulating Private Alarm Systems.** Chief Lewendowski stated that the change to the ordinance was to eliminate the double permit that was currently required and to include fire alarms. A permit must be obtained from the county thus he did not feel that a permit was necessary from the town. The revised Ordinance would also have additional

penalties for items such as utilizing an alarm without a permit, automatic dialing prohibition and false alarms. Motion (Nystrom/Fehrman) to approve the modification of Ordinance 48 and instruct the clerk to prepare the proper resolutions to adopt the changes for the next board meeting. Motion carried.

17. **Discussion on hiring part time winter employees.** Chairman Bohn stated that he wished the board member to consider hiring some part-time winter employees to assist in plowing snow or other winter items that the town may require additional employees for. Supervisor Nystrom stated that in the past years the town usually carried 2-3 people on a roster for an on-call, as needed employment basses. Motion (Clendenning/Nystrom) to have the Personnel Committee determine the qualifications and requirements needed for the clerk to prepare documentation and advertise for the needed employment personnel for part-time winter employees. Employees would be on-call, as needed employees. Motion carried.
18. **Discussion on hiring Public Works supervisor.** Chairman Bohn asked the board members to consider the possibility of hiring a supervisor to oversee the departments involved in public works and some public services. It was decided that the Personnel Committee would put together a document with possible responsibilities of this position and it would be discussed at budget meetings as well as at future board meeting.
19. **Approval of September disbursement vouchers.** No questions for the board members.
20. **Approval/Denial of Operators License Applications.** Motion (Hellner/Fehrman) to approve the application of Justin Conner for an Operators License for The Store in Keller. Motion carried.
21. **Monthly reports from committees and departments:**
  - **Police Department:** Chief Lewandowski reported that the department handled 368 calls for service the month of September. Chief Lewandowski officially congratulated Officer Rob Wiltse for his promotion to the rank of Sergeant last month. He was presented with sergeant strips and badge. The two new part-time officers have completed training and are doing well. Squad 3 has been taken out routine patrol. The car is unmarked but is still equipped to respond to emergencies. Chief Lewandowski and other officers participated in the active shooter drill at Assumption High School. Great training for all. Neighborhood Watch held the first meeting. More meeting will be scheduled soon.
  - **Fire Department:** Chief Bernette reported that since last report they have responded to 14 calls. 1 power pole arching, 1 vehicle accident with landing zone setup, 1 natural gas leak, 2 CO calls, 2 ambulance assistance with one needing the RRV to transport a person from wooded area and 7 RIT calls. Training for the month of October consists of: 10/6 – Golden Eagle Log Home site tour, 10/15 – Joint training with Biron on fill site operations and various equipment operations, 10/27 – MSTC fire tower training, 10/9 – EMS training. EMS update: State has the paperwork but has not processed it at this time. EMS tones have been programmed on pagers, radios and at dispatch.
  - **Safety:** No lost time work injuries. Next meeting October 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. on winter driving habits.
  - **Public Works:** Chairman Bohn said the crew is getting equipment ready for winter. Salt is very high priced and not a large amount available this year. There will be no sales of salt to private businesses. 32<sup>nd</sup> St. is looking to be paved and opened in a week or two. Still closed at this time. The road markers that can be used by the public to mark edges of road are available at the municipal building.
  - **Crime Stoppers:** Supervisor Nystrom reported that the Crime Stoppers have held several fund raisers lately with on being a brat fry at Golden Eagle Log Homes. He wished to that Golden Eagle for the opportunity for the fund raiser.
  - **Airport Commission:** Supervisor Nystrom reported that the Commission will be reviewing the Fixed Base Operators contract.
  - **Planning and Zoning:** Supervisor Fehrman reported that the Planning Commission has several Conditional Use Permits and Land Use Permits coming up. Next Smart Growth meeting will be Monday October 20, 2008 and Planning Commission meeting will be Monday October 27, 2008.

- **Building Inspector:** Building Inspector Lorelei Fuehrer gave several tips on conserving energy for the winter months.
- **Recycling & Garbage:** Supervisor Clendenning reported that the committee will be further checking the options available for beginning the use of containers for recycling.

## 22. Other Public Input

Ron Hett thanked the board for allowing the property owners in the Town of Grand Rapids to use markers purchased through the town to assist the snow plow drivers in marking the edges of the roadways.

Chairman Bohn wanted to let the public know that the town board and Golden Eagle Log Homes would be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. The public is welcome to join us and celebrate the completion of the expansion with a tour of the new facility.

Motion (Clendenning/Hellner) to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 8:40 p.m.

Minutes subject to board approval.

Respectfully submitted and approved  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008

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Judy McLellan  
Town Clerk